

Jg Ballard

First published in 1970 and widely regarded as a prophetic masterpiece, this is a groundbreaking experimental novel by the acclaimed author of ‘Crash’ and ‘Super-Cannes’.

A startling and at times unsettlingly prescient collection of J.G. Ballard’s greatest interviews. J.G. Ballard was a literary giant. His novels were unique and surprising. To the journalists and admirers who sought him out, Ballard was the “seer of Shepperton”; his home the vantage from which he observed the rising suburban tide, part of a changing society captured and second-guessed so plausibly in his fiction. Such acuity was not exclusive to his novels—and, as this book reminds us, Ballard’s restive intelligence sharpened itself in dialogue. He entertained many with insights into the world as he saw it, and speculated, often correctly, about its future. Some of these observations earned Ballard an oracular reputation, and continue to yield an uncannily accurate commentary today. Now, for the first time, Extreme Metaphors collects the finest interviews of his career. Conversations with cultural figureheads such as Will Self, Jon Savage, Iain Sinclair and John Gray, and collaborators like David Cronenberg, are a reminder of his wit and humanity, testament to Ballard’s profound worldliness as much as his otherworldly imagination. This collection is an indispensable tribute to one of recent history’s most incisive and original thinkers.

Michel Delville has produced in this volume, the first book-length study of J.G. Ballard’s literary output and commentaries on contemporary culture.

The world is threatened by dramatic climate change in this highly acclaimed and influential novel, one of the most important early works by the bestselling author of COCAINE NIGHTS and SUPER-CANNES.The world is threatened by dramatic climate change in this highly acclaimed and influential novel, one of the most important early works by the bestselling author of Cocaine Nights and Super-Cannes. Water. Man’s most precious commodity is a luxury of the past. Radioactive waste from years of industrial dumping has caused the sea to form a protective skin strong enough to devastate the Earth it once sustained. And while the remorseless sun beats down on the dying land, civilization itself begins to crack. Violence erupts and insanity reigns as the remnants of mankind struggle for survival in a worldwide desert of despair.

Late Capitalism, Power, and the Pataphysics of Resistance

Extreme Metaphors

A Novel

The Day of Creation: A Novel

“Compulsively absorbing: the white heat of its images seems to burn off the page, and the surreal landscapes linger on in the mind.” —Independent On the arid, war-plagued terrain of central Africa, a manic doctor is consumed with visions of transforming the Sahara into a land of abundance. But Dr. Mallory’s obsession quickly spirals dangerously out of control. First published in 1987, this classic Ballard thriller continues to resonate “with dark implications for the future of humanity” (Publishers Weekly).

This book is the first sustained investigation of the political dimension in the work of J.G. Ballard. A product of and reaction to the cultural-socio-economic moment commonly designated as the postmodern condition, Ballard’s oeuvre is read as a continuous and developing meditation on the postmodern, examining it specifically as an expression of late capitalism. The book shows that at the heart of this meditation lies the question of resistance. Drawing on a wide range of concepts and ideas taken from the field of critical theory, it argues that in the face of a modernity’s grand narratives have been invalidated and in which received forms of political struggle have lost their effectiveness, Ballard’s fiction commits itself to a deliberately irrational and extreme, pataphysical thought in order to develop a new discourse of resistance. Against past readings that have construed Ballard’s writing as non-political, decadent, or quietist, the study thus reveals Ballard as a thoroughly political author, committed to a subversive politics. In this way, the book also constitutes a timely intervention in the ongoing discussion of innovative and interdisciplinary essays on the increasingly significant British writer J.G. Ballard (1930-2009), exploring the physical, cultural and intertextual landscapes in his key works, especially The Atrocity Exhibition, one of the most challenging works in contemporary fiction.

The Definitive Cult. Postmodern Novel—a Shocking Blend of Violence, Transgression, and Eroticism Reissued with a New Introduction from Zadie Smith When J. G. Ballard, our narrator, smashes his car into another and watches a man die in front of him, he finds himself drawn with increasing intensity to the mangled impacts of car crashes. Robert Vaughan, a former TV scientist turned nightmare angel of the expressway, has gathered around him a collection of alienated crash victims and experiments with a series of autoerotic atrocities, each more sinister than the head-on collision of blood, semen, engine coolant, and iconic celebrity. First published in 1973, Crash remains one of the most shocking novels of the twentieth century and was made into an equally controversial film by David Cronenberg.

Millennium People: A Novel

High-Rise: A Novel

J. G. Ballard

The Crystal World

Kingdom Come: A Novel

J. G. Ballard self-professedly ‘devoured’ the work of Freud as a teenager, and entertained early thoughts of becoming a psychiatrist; he opened his novel-writing career with a manifesto declaring his wish to write a science fiction exploring not outer but ‘inner space’, and declaring the need for contemporary fiction to be viewed ‘as a branch of neurology’. He also apparently welcomed a reader’s report on Crash (1973) condemning him as ‘beyond psychiatric help’ as confirming his achievement of ‘total artistic success’. Samuel Francis investigates Ballard’s engagement with psychology and the psychological in his fiction, tracing the influence of key figures including Sigmund Freud, C.G. Jung and R.D. Laing and placing his work in the context of the wider fields of psychology and psychiatry. While the psychological preoccupations of his writing are very clear - including his use of concepts such as the unconscious, psychopathology, ‘deviance’, obsession, abnormal psychology and schizophrenia - this is the first book to offer a detailed analysis of this key conceptual and historical context for his fiction.

A collection of novelist’s non-fiction writings spanning more than thirty years addresses topics including the arts, science, literature, popular culture, and his own life

A young boy living in China at the outbreak of World War II is separated from his wealthy parents, forced to forage for survival in Shanghai’s foreign quarter, interned in a Japanese prison camp, and, eventually, reunited with his family, in a new edition of the award-winning autobiographical novel. Reprint, 10,000 first printing.

Collects all ninety-two of the late Empire of the Sun author’s stories—including “Prima Belladonna,” “Dead Time,” and “The Index”-- which span five decades and explore everything from musical orchids to human cannibalism to the secret history of World War III.

The Psychological Fictions of J.G. Ballard

Concrete Island

Hello America: A Novel

Essays and Reviews

A Thematic Study of the Fiction of J.G. Ballard

The author of such novels as “Empire of the Sun” and “Crash” recalls his childhood, his first attempts at science fiction, and his life as a single father after the premature death of his wife.

The Complete Stories of J. G. BallardW. W. Norton & Company

“J.G. Ballard is the undisputed laureate of suburban psychosis. . . . A brilliant novel.”—Literary Review A violent novel filled with insidious twists, Kingdom Come follows the exploits of Richard Pearson, a rebellious, unemployed advertising executive, whose father is gunned down by a deranged mental patient in a vast shopping mall outside Heathrow Airport. When the prime suspect is released without charge, Richard’s suspicions are aroused. Investigating the mystery, Richard uncovers at the Metro-Centre mall a neo-fascist world whose charismatic spokesperson is whipping up the masses into a state of unsustainable frenzy. Riots frequently terrorize the complex, immigrant communities are attacked by hooligans, and sports events mushroom into jingoistic political rallies. In this gripping, dystopian tour de force, J.G. Ballard holds up a mirror to suburban mind rot, revealing the darker forces at work beneath the gloss of consumerism and flag-waving patriotism.

Cultural Writing, Reference. “Never has Ballard sounded so concerned, fatherly, or political. (In an earlier, 1984 RE/Search interview, Ballard impishly exclaims, “I want more nuclear weapons!”) The interviews [in the new RE/Search book] make it abundantly clear that while Ballard has always proclaimed the death of reason and the visceral origins of technology, he now sees these developments as almost wholly negative.”—San Francisco Bay Guardian. “You get a splendid window into the warped Ballard universe, as he improvises off the cuff about almost everything, especially car crashes.”—Metro Silicon Valley.

The Drought

War Fever

The Best Short Stories of J.G. Ballard

J.G. Ballard’s Politics

Spectacular Authorship

The renowned science-fiction writer selects the best and most representative of his short fiction, revealing the variety of his projections of twentieth-century technology in post-atomic worlds

First published in 1978, this collection of nineteen of J. G. Ballard’s best short stories is as timely and informed as ever. His tales of the human psyche and its relationship to nature and technology, as viewed through a strong microscope, were eerily prescient and now provide greater perspective on our computer-dominated culture. Ballard’s voice and vision have long served as a font of inspiration for today’s cyber-punks, the authors and futurists who brought the information age into the mainstream.

David Cronenberg’s Crash (1996) brought down a storm of controversy and opprobrium when it was first screened in London. And yet it’s a cool, controlled, formal film, unsensational, more analytic than titillating, a brilliant exposé of modern pathologies. It has almost none of the violence and explicit sexual content of the J.G. Ballard novel from which it is adapted. What is the relationship between Ballard himself and the character ‘James Ballard’ in Crash? In this book, which includes an exclusive and revealing interview with Ballard, Sinclair explores the uncanny temporal loop which connects film and novel. If Cronenberg’s ‘adapted’ Crash, he also absorbed it, ingested it, made it into something new. But, on the other hand, the novel controls the film, or uses the film to disguise its truly subversive intent. And, for Sinclair, there are more startling permutations still. To what extent, for example, is Crash a premonition of some of the more remarkable media events of recent times?

The definitive cult, post-modern novel – a shocking blend of violence, transgression and eroticism.

Crash

Empire of the Sun

A User’s Guide to the Millennium

Conversations

J.G. Ballard’s Surrealist Imagination

“Harsh and ingenious! High Rise is an intense and vivid bestiary, which lingers unsettlingly in the mind.”—Martin Amis, New Statesman When a class war erupts inside a luxurious apartment block, modern elevators become violent battlegrounds and cocktail parties degenerate into marauding attacks on “enemy” floors. In this visionary tale, human society slips into violent reverse as once-peaceful residents, driven by primal urges, re-create a world ruled by the laws of the jungle.

The author of Empire of the Sun and other acclaimed novels and stories, British writer J. G. Ballard is here given a penetrating analysis, his work being explored in terms of its internal coherence, thematic continuity and development, and mythic and metaphysical aspects. Ballard’s fiction is widely considered to be a critique of our secular, rational, technological culture, but the writer is shown not to be fatalistic, but, rather, concerned with the redemption and regeneration of the human psyche. This study examines Ballard’s output over four decades and compares him to several British and American writers of the post-World War II era--within and beyond the often too-rigidly applied categorization of science fiction, as well as to Romantic visionaries of the past.

"This fable lifts a great freight of ideas effortlessly...The story of an expedition driven on by wishes of possession and power but guided internally by myths of America whose sources lie in the late 20th century." —Guardian Following the energy crisis of the late twentieth century, America has been abandoned. Now, a century later, a small group of European explorers returns to the now climatically mutated continent. But America is unrecognizable—the Bering Strait has been dammed and much of the country has become a desert, populated by isolated natives and the bizarre remnants of a disintegrated culture. The expedition sets off from Manhattan on a cross-country journey, through Holiday Inns and abandoned theme parks, to uncover a shocking new power in the heart of Las Vegas.

Peter Brigg examines the life and work of British author J.G. Ballard, from his science fiction to his mainstream fiction. Starmont Reader’s Guide 26.

The Life of J.G. Ballard

The Drowned World

Out of the Night and Into the Dream

The Inner Man

Miracles of Life: Shanghai to Shepperton, An Autobiography

Long regarded as one of the transitional writers of the twentieth century, J.G. Ballard was one of the first British writers of the post-war period to begin to see, and to map out in his fiction, the future course of our civilization. For forty years his unflinching eye has turned to the point where the advancing edge of our technological progress has worn away our inner humanity. Eden-Olympia is more than just a multinational business park, it is a virtual city-state in itself, with the latest in services and facilities for the most elite high-tech industries. Isolated and secure, overlooking the luxurious French Riviera, the residents lack nothing. Yet one day Dr. Greenwood from Eden-Olympia’s clinic goes on a suicidal shooting spree. Dr. Jane Sinclair is hired as his replacement, and she and her husband, Paul, are given Dr. Greenwood’s house as a residence. Unable to work while recovering from an accident, Paul spends his days taking a close look at the house where Dr. Greenwood shot himself and three hostages. He discovers clues in the house lead him to question Eden-Olympia’s official account of the killings. Drawn into investigating the activities of the park’s leading citizens, while Jane is tured deeper into Eden-Olympia’s inner workings, Paul uncovers the dangerous psychological vents that maintain Eden-Olympia’s smoothly running surface. An experiment is underway at Eden-Olympia, an experiment in power and brutality. Soon Paul finds himself in race to save himself and his wife before they are crushed by forces that may be beyond anyone’s control.

A comprehensive account of the work of J.G. Ballard, one of the most important fiction writers of the past forty years. Traces the development of his career, and the significant contribution he has made to contemporary writing.

"The most cosmically elegiac writer in literature . . . no one reading Ballard could doubt the tidal gravity of his intellect." —Jonathan Lethem, New York Times Book Review Violent rebellion comes to London’s middle classes in this “fascinating” (San Francisco Chronicle) novel from the same author of Crash and Empire of the Sun. Never more timely, Millennium People “seeks to illuminate our hearts of darkness while undermining our assumptions about what literature is meant to do” (Los Angeles Times).

Making the case that J. G. Ballard’s fictional and non-fictional writings must be read within the framework of Surrealism, Jeannette Baxter argues for a radical revisioning of Ballard that takes account of the political and ethical dimensions of his work. Ballard’s appropriation of diverse Surrealist aesthetic forms and political writings, Baxter suggests, are mobilised to contest official narratives of postwar history and culture and offer a series of counter-historical and counter-cultural critiques. Thus Ballard’s work must be understood as an exercise in Surrealist historiography that is politically and ethically engaged. Placing Ballard’s illustrated texts within this critical framework permits Baxter to explore the effects of photographs, drawings, and other visual symbols on the reading experience and the production of meaning. Ballard’s textual spectacles raise a variety of questions about the shifting role of the reader and the function of the written text within a predominantly visual culture, while acknowledging the visual contexts of Ballard’s Surrealist writings allows a very different historical picture of the author and his work to emerge.

The Drought: A Novel

The Unlimited Dream Company: A Novel

RE/Search #8/9

Super-Cannes

The Complete Short Stories: Volume 1

An explosive and perceptive biography of the British novelist J.G. Ballard To many people, J.G. Ballard will always be the schoolboy in Steven Spielberg’s movie Empire of the Sun, struggling to survive as an internee of the Japanese during World War II. Others remember him as the author of CRASH, a meditation on the eroticism of the automobile and the car crash, which also became a film and a cause celebre for its frank depiction of a fetish which, as this book reveals, was no literary conceit but a lifelong preoccupation. In this first biography, John Baxter draws on an admiration of and acquaintance with Ballard that began when they were writers for the same 1960s science fiction magazines. With the help of the few people whom he admitted to his often hermit-like existence, it illuminates the troubled reality behind the urbane and amiable facade of a man who was proud to describe himself as ‘psychopathic’.

The classic, award-winning novel, made famous by Steven Spielberg’s film, tells of a young boy’s struggle to survive World War II in China. Jim is separated from his parents in a world at war. To survive, he must find a strength greater than all the events that surround him. Shanghai, 1941 -- a city aflame from the fateful torch of Pearl Harbor. In streets full of chaos and corpses, a young British boy searches in vain for his parents. Imprisoned in a Japanese concentration camp, he is witness to the fierce white flash of Nagasaki, as the bomb bellows the end of the war...and the dawn of a blighted world. Ballard’s enduring novel of war and deprivation, internment camps and death marches, and starvation and survival is an honest coming-of-age tale set in a world thrown utterly out of joint.

A war-ravaged Beirut is the setting for the title story of this visionary collection by J. G. Ballard, a tale in which a young street fighter inadvertently discovers how to bring an end to the bloodshed only to find that his solution is all too effective as far as some supposedly neutral observers are concerned. Other stories in War Fever feature an assassination plot against an American astronaut, the leader of an authoritarian religious movement; a man who is destroyed by a car crash and resolves never to leave his apartment again; and the survivor of a toxic-waste ship wrecked on a deserted Caribbean island.

"A remarkable piece of evocation, a flight from the world of the familiar and the real into the exotic universe of dream and desire." —New York Times Book Review When a light aircraft crashes into the Thames at Shepperton, the young pilot who struggles to the surface minutes later seems to have come back from the dead. Within hours everything in the dormitory suburb is transformed. Vultures invade rooftops, luxuriant tropical vegetation overruns the quiet avenues, and the local inhabitants are propelled by the young man’s urgent visions through ecstatic sexual celebrations toward an apocalyptic climax. In this characteristically inventive novel Ballard displays to devastating effect the extraordinary imagination that has established him as one of the twentieth century’s most visionary writers.

The Complete Stories of J. G. Ballard

The Atrocity Exhibition

Landscapes of Tomorrow

The Best Short Stories of J. G. Ballard

J.G. Ballard

First in a two volume collection of short stories by the acclaimed author of Empire of the Sun, Crash, Cocaine Nights and Super-Cannes.

From J. G. Ballard, author of ‘Crash’ and ‘Cocaine Nights’ comes his extraordinary vision of an African forest that turns all in its path to crystal.

Prophetic short stories and apocalyptic novels like The Crystal World made J. G. Ballard a foundational figure in the British New Wave. Rejecting the science fiction of rockets and aliens, he explored an inner space of humanity informed by psychiatry and biology and shaped by Surrealism. Later in his career, Ballard’s combustible plots and violent imagery spurred controversy—even legal action—while his autobiographical 1984 war novel Empire of the Sun brought him fame. D. Harlan Wilson offers the first career-spanning analysis of an author who helped steer SF in new, if startling, directions. Here was a writer committed to moral ambiguity, one who drowned the world and erected a London high-rise doomed to descend into savagery—and coolly picked apart the characters trapped within each story. Wilson also examines Ballard’s methods, his influence on cyberpunk, and the ways his fiction operates within the sphere of our larger culture and within SF itself.

Controversial science fiction writer, J.G. Ballard, tells of his unorthodox upbringing in Shanghai in the 1940’s. Ballard has achieved acclaim for works such as Empire of the Sun, and controversy over Crash, which investigates the psychosexual significance of the car crash. The book includes an article on Ballard Mythmaker of the 20th Century by William S. Burroughs, and chapter one of Crash, plus Ballard’s introduction to the French edition.

The Best of J. G. Ballard

"Water. Man's most precious commodity is a luxury of the past. Radioactive waste from years of industrial dumping has caused the sea to form a protective skin strong enough to devastate the Earth it once sustained. And while the remorseless sun beats down on the dying land, civilization itself begins to crack."--P. [4] of cover.

Concrete Island pays twisted homage to DeFoe’s Robinson Crusoe. Newly reissued with an introduction from Neil Gaiman. On a day in April, just after three o’clock in the afternoon, Robert Maitland’s car crashes over the concrete parapet of a high-speed highway onto the island below, where he is injured and, finally, trapped. What begins as an almost ludicrous predicament soon turns into horror as Maitland—a wickedly modern Robinson Crusoe—realizes that, despite evidence of other inhabitants, this domed terrain has become a mirror of his own mind. Seeking the dark outer rim of the everyday, Ballard weaves private catastrophe into an intensely specular allegory.